

**Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting
Minutes
October 27, 2021**

The meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairman Terry Mest. Present in addition to Mr. Mest were committee members Charles Heller, Lori Carnes, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council member Keith Endy; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Jillian Magee, Main Street Manager, and interested citizens.

Mr. Mest made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2021 meeting of the committee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heller and approved.

Police Chiefs Report

Chief Leatherman advised the committee that the traffic problem at the high school, which he previously discussed with the committee has improved. The Chief further reported that the buses have returned to using Madison Street. The Chief and the High School Principal will continue to monitor the situation.

Unfinished Business

Parking Enforcement Officer – Chief Leatherman advised that the part time employee who holds this position has been cleared to return to work for a maximum of 10 hours per week.

BAF&R – Discussion False Alarm Ordinance – Nothing new to report. Mrs. Loder will follow up with Mr. Lehmann for a status update.

Parking on North & South Sides of E Philadelphia Avenue – Tabled to 2022

Sidewalks & Curbing East & West Philadelphia Avenues – Tabled to 2022

New Business

BaBB-Chillin on Main December 4, 2021 – The committee reviewed a letter submitted by the BaBB for permission to hold the Chillin on Main event on December 4, 2021 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. BaBB requests authorization to request approval from PennDOT to close Philadelphia Avenue from Reading Avenue to Washington Street. The street closure will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Following discussion, the committee agreed to list this matter on the agenda of the November 1st meeting of Borough Council.

Coming Out of Hibernation April 16th, 2022 – The committee reviewed a letter submitted by the BaBB for permission to hold the Coming Out of Hibernation event on April

16th, 2022 between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. BaBB requests authorization to request approval from PennDOT to close Philadelphia Avenue from Reading Avenue to Washington Street. The street closure will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Following discussion the committee agreed to list this matter on the agenda of the November 1st meeting of Borough Council.

Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles Road Closure Request November 6 – The committee reviewed a request submitted by Kendra Cook, Executive Director, of the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles to close South Walnut Street from Pine Alley to Third Street and Third Street from Peach Alley to South Walnut Street on November 6th between the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The museum is holding a special event on November 6th to debut the museum's new façade. The event will include a ribbon cutting ceremony, remarks, a special car show and a community fair, which will held in the parking lot located at the corner of Third and Walnut Streets. Following discussion, the committee agreed to list this request on the agenda of the November 1st meeting of Borough Council. The intersection at Third and South Walnut Street will not be closed.

Controlled Burn Restrictions – Mrs. Loder advised the committee of complaints received from residents of College Street concerning a neighbor who on a regular basis burns wood in a fire pit in his rear yard creating smoke and odor which is offensive to neighbors. Concern was also expressed about the location of the fire pit in relationship to structures. Taryn and Seth Diachynsky, residents of 123 College Street, expressed to the committee that the fire pit on their neighbor's property negatively impacts their property with smoke and odor and concern about embers falling on the roof of their home. They requested the committee consider enactment of an ordinance to control burning within the borough.

Jeff Bealer, BAF&R Fire Commissioner, reviewed with the committee a list of potential controlled burn restrictions, which could be enacted by ordinance. Following a somewhat lengthy discussion, the committee directed Mrs. Loder to work with the solicitor to draft a control burn ordinance for review by the committee.

Handicap Parking/Parking Meter Inquiry 56 N Reading Avenue – Chief Leatherman advised the committee that he received a call from an individual with a disability who is considering purchasing the property at 56 North Reading Avenue. The individual stated that the property does not have any off-street parking and the street parking is metered parking only. The individual inquired if the Borough would consider an accommodation to allow her to park at a meter without having to put money in the meter throughout the day. Discussion was held on the subject and Mr. Endy suggested establishing a handicap parking permit which could be available to a resident of the borough who resides within an area of the borough where street parking at

their home is metered. The permit would be an annual permit with a fee associated with it. The committee agreed that this is something they would be willing to consider. Chief Leatherman will advise the caller.

Mr. Bealer advised the Committee of BAF&R's grant application submitted to the State Fire Marshal's office for a grant in the amount of \$45,000 to purchase new turnout gear, rope and rigging kits, and dry suit kits for the swift water rescue boat. Mr. Bealer noted that this is not a matching grant and BAF&R is not requesting any financial assistance from the municipalities.

Mrs. Carnes inquired if the borough should consider installing cameras at certain locations within the borough. The Chief stated that he and Mrs. Loder recently met with a Police Chief from another municipality to discuss the camera system his municipality is using. As time permits Mrs. Loder plans to investigate the cost to purchase and install cameras on borough owned property where vandalism has been a problem. Mrs. Loder and the Chief noted that the system is flexible and over time cameras can be added in different locations.

Mrs. Carnes also inquired about relocating the stop block on West Philadelphia Avenue at the traffic signal noting that large trucks are not able to make the turn when a car is stopped at the stop block. The Chief and Mrs. Loder agreed that the location of the stop block is dictated by PennDOT through the permit they issued for the traffic signal.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. was made by Mr. Mest and seconded by Mrs. Carnes. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, December 1st, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary